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Docket No.
524941/0007
LR:DLS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Seiichi Hirano et al.

Group Art Unit: 2853

Application No.: 09/976,668

Examiner: M. Brooke

Filed: October 11, 2001

For: PRINTER INCLUDING
AN INK CARTRIDGE

Reissue of: U.S. Patent No. 6,027,204

Issued: February 22, 2000

Date: November 14, 2002

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RESPONSE

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated August 14, 2002, the time for response to which extending to and including November 14, 2002, Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in this application. Claims 1-23 stand allowed, and claims 24-39 have been rejected. Claims 1 (allowed), 4 (allowed), 15 (allowed), 17 (allowed), 20 (allowed), 21 (allowed), 24, 38, 32 and 36-38 are independent.

Claims 24-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Appln. No. 4-7185 to Ishii in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,136,308 to Saito et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and submit the following arguments in support thereof.

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